funded research and development centers, defense industrial base entities, nonprofit organizations, commercial entities, and venture capital firms that are engaged in the military and non-military research, development, funding, and production of innovative technologies that support the national security of the United States.

(c) ADMISSION OF ESSENTIAL SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY INNOVATION BASE.—

(1) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.—In accordance with the procedures established under paragraph (6)(A), and subject to the numerical limitations under paragraph (3)(A), the Secretary of Homeland Security may provide an alien described in paragraph (2) (and the spouse and children of the alien if accompanying or following to join the alien) with the status of a special immigrant under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) if the alien—

(A) submits a classification petition under section 204(a)(1)(G)(i) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(G)(i)); and

(B) is otherwise eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is otherwise admissible to the United States for permanent residence.

(2) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in this paragraph if—

(A) the alien—

(i) is employed by a United States employer and engaged in work to promote and protect the National Security Innovation Base;

(ii) is engaged in basic or applied research, funded by the Department of Defense, through a United States institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or

(iii) possesses scientific or technical expertise that will advance the development of critical technologies identified in the National Defense Strategy or the National Defense Science and Technology Strategy, required by section 218 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 1679); and

(B) the Secretary of Defense issues a written statement to the Secretary of Homeland Security confirming that the admission of the alien is essential to advancing the research, development, testing, or evaluation of critical technologies described in subparagraph (A)(iii) or otherwise serves national security interests.

(3) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The total number of aliens described in paragraph (2) who may be provided special immigrant status under this subsection may not exceed—

(i) 100 in fiscal year 2022;

(ii) 200 in fiscal year 2023;

(iii) 300 in fiscal year 2024;

(iv) 400 in fiscal year 2025; and

(v) 500 in fiscal year 2026 and in each fiscal year thereafter.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—Aliens provided special immigrant status under this subsection shall not be counted against the numerical limitations under sections 201(d), 202(a), and 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(d), 1152(a), and 1153(b)(4)).

(4) DEFENSE COMPETITION FOR SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a process to select, on a competitive basis from among individuals described in paragraph (2), individuals for recommendation to the Secretary of Homeland Security for special immigrant status under paragraph (1).

(5) AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary of Defense shall authorize appropriate personnel of the Department of Defense to use all personnel and management authorities available to the Department, including—

(A) the personnel and management authorities provided to the science and technology reinvention laboratories;

(B) the Major Range and Test Facility Base (as defined in 196(i) of title 10, United States Code); and

(C) the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

(6) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly establish policies and procedures implementing this subsection, which shall include procedures for—

(A) processing petitions for classification submitted under paragraph (1)(A) and applications for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status, as applicable; and

(B) the thorough processing of any required security clearances.

(7) FEES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a fee that—

(A) will be charged and collected for processing each application filed under this subsection; and

(B) is set at a level that will ensure recovery of the full costs of such processing and any additional costs associated with the administration of the fees collected.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) includes a plan for implementing the authorities provided under this section; and

(B) identifies any additional authorities that may be required to assist the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense to fully implement this section.

(2) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

(A) EVALUATION.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an evaluation of the competitive program and special immigrant program described in subsection (c).

(B) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2025, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the results of the evaluation conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).

SA 1867. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE __—BOLSTERING LONG-TERM UNDERSTANDING AND EXPLORATION OF THE GREAT LAKES, OCEANS, BAYS, AND ESTUARIES

SEC. __01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Bolstering Long-term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries Act'' or the ''BLUE GLOBE Act''.

SEC. __02. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to promote and support—

(1) the monitoring, understanding, and exploration of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts; and

(2) the collection, analysis, synthesis, and sharing of data related to the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts to facilitate science and operational decision making.

SEC. __03. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that Federal agencies should optimize data collection, management, and dissemination, to the extent practicable, to maximize their impact for research, conservation, commercial, regulatory, and educational benefits and to foster innovation, scientific discoveries, the development of commercial products, and the development of sound policy with respect to the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts.

SEC. __04. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in the Under Secretary's capacity as Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

SEC. __05. WORKFORCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (33 U.S.C. 893c(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Secretary of Commerce'' and inserting ''Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', skillsets, or credentials'' after ''degrees'';

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''or highly qualified technical professionals and tradespeople'' after ''atmospheric scientists'';

(4) in paragraph (4), by inserting '', skillsets, or credentials'' after ''degrees'';

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking ''scientist''; and

(B) by striking ''; and'' and inserting '', observations, and monitoring;''

(6) in paragraph (6), by striking ''into Federal'' and all that follows and inserting '', technical professionals, and tradespeople into Federal career positions;''

(7) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;

(8) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) whether there is a shortage in the number of individuals with technical or trade-based skillsets or credentials suited to a career in oceanic and atmospheric data collection, processing, satellite production, or satellite operations;''; and

(9) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) workforce diversity and actions the Federal Government can take to increase diversity in the scientific workforce; and

''(9) actions the Federal Government can take to shorten the hiring backlog for such workforce.''.

(b) COORDINATION.—Section 303(b) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 893c(b)) is amended by striking ''Secretary of Commerce'' and inserting ''Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere''.

(c) REPORT.—Section 303(c) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 893c(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''the date of the enactment of the Bolstering Long-term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries Act'';

(2) by striking ''Secretary of Commerce'' and inserting ''Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere''; and

(3) by striking ''to each committee'' and all that follows through ''section 302 of this Act'' and inserting ''to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives''.

(d) PROGRAM AND PLAN.—Section 303(d) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 893c(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration'' and inserting ''Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere''; and

(2) by striking ''academic partners'' and all that follows and inserting ''academic partners.''.

SEC. __06. ACCELERATING INNOVATION AT COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.

(a) FOCUS ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—The Administrator shall consider evaluating the goals of one or more Cooperative Institutes of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to include focusing on advancing or applying emerging technologies, which may include—

(1) applied uses and development of real-time and other advanced genetic technologies and applications, including such technologies and applications that derive genetic material directly from environmental samples without any obvious signs of biological source material;

(2) deployment of, and improvements to, the durability, maintenance, and other lifecycle concerns of advanced unmanned vehicles, regional small research vessels, and other research vessels that support and launch unmanned vehicles and sensors; and

(3) supercomputing and big data management, including data collected through model outputs, electronic monitoring, and remote sensing.

(b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—If appropriate, the Cooperative Institutes shall work with the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, the regional associations of the Integrated Ocean Observing System, and other ocean observing programs to coordinate technology needs and the transition of new technologies from research to operations.

SEC. __07. ELECTRONIC MONITORING INNOVATION PRIZE.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and under the authority provided by section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719), the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies and nongovernmental partners, as appropriate, shall establish an Electronic Monitoring Innovation Prize, which may be awarded for the development of advanced electronic fisheries monitoring equipment and data analysis tools, including improved fish species recognition software.

SEC. __08. BLUE ECONOMY VALUATION.

(a) MEASUREMENT OF BLUE ECONOMY INDUSTRIES.—The Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall establish a program to improve the collection, aggregation, and analysis of data to measure the value and impact of industries related to the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts on the economy of the United States, including living resources, marine construction, marine transportation, offshore energy development and siting including for renewable energy, offshore mineral production, ship and boat building, tourism, recreation, subsistence, commercial, recreational, and charter fishing, seafood processing, and other fishery-related businesses, aquaculture such as kelp and shellfish, and other industries the Administrator considers appropriate (known as ''Blue Economy'' industries).

(b) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

(1) work with the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies to develop a Coastal and Ocean Economy Satellite Account that includes national, Tribal, and State-level statistics to measure the contribution of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts to the overall economy of the United States; and

(2) collaborate with national and international organizations and governments to promote consistency of methods, measurements, and definitions to ensure comparability of results between countries.

(c) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years until the date that is 20 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall publish a report that—

(1) defines the Blue Economy, in coordination with Indian Tribes, academia, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and other relevant experts;

(2) makes recommendations for updating North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) reporting codes to reflect the Blue Economy; and

(3) provides a comprehensive estimate of the value and impact of the Blue Economy with respect to each State and territory of the United States, including—

(A) the value and impact of—

(i) economic activities that are dependent upon the resources of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts;

(ii) the population and demographic characteristics of the population along the coasts;

(iii) port and shoreline infrastructure;

(iv) the volume and value of cargo shipped by sea or across the Great Lakes; and

(v) data collected from the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, including such data collected by businesses that purchase and commodify the data, including weather prediction and seasonal agricultural forecasting; and

(B) to the extent possible, the qualified value and impact of the natural capital of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts with respect to tourism, recreation, natural resources, and cultural heritage, including other indirect values.

SEC. __09. ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY–OCEANS.

(a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct the comprehensive assessment under subsection (b).

(b) COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement between the Administrator and the National Academy of Sciences under this section, the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive assessment to evaluate—

(A) whether there is a need for an Advanced Research Projects Agency–Oceans (ARPA–O) that operates within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in coordination with, but not duplicative of, existing Federal research programs relating to oceanic, coastal, Great Lakes, estuarine, and related systems, including programs of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(B) if there is such a need, the feasibility of establishing such an ARPA–O.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The comprehensive assessment conducted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of how an ARPA–O may help overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of ocean technologies, with the goal of enhancing the economic, ecological, and national security of the United States through the rapid development of technologies that result in—

(i) improved data collection, monitoring, and prediction of the ocean environment, including sea ice conditions;

(ii) overcoming barriers to the application of new and improved technologies, such as high costs and scale of operational missions;

(iii) improved technology for fishery stock assessments and surveys; and

(iv) ensuring that the United States maintains a technological lead in developing and deploying advanced ocean technologies;

(B) an evaluation of the organizational structures under which an ARPA–O could be organized, which takes into account—

(i) best practices for new research programs;

(ii) metrics and approaches for periodic program evaluation;

(iii) capacity to fund and manage external research awards; and

(iv) options for oversight of the activity through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) an estimation of the scale of investment necessary to pursue high priority ocean technology projects; and

(D) in a case in which an ARPA–O is not recommended as an independent office, recommendations to improve the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to achieve the goals described in subparagraph (A).

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the comprehensive assessment conducted under subsection (b).

(2) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(D) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. __10. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are to be authorized to carry out this title.

SA 1868. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: